

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on September 7, 2006. Claim 3 is amended in accordance with the disclosure. See, for instance, the specification, page 13, lines 13-15 and 32-37. Claim 5 is cancelled, without prejudice, as are non-elected claims 10-15, 18, and 19. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment – in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal – is earnestly solicited. With this Amendment, claims 3, 4, and 6-9, 16, and 17 are pending in the Application.

Objection was raised to claim 5. Office Action, pages 3-4. Claim 5 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claims 3-9, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 1-275130. Office Action, pages 2-3. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention provides protective coat-forming coating compositions that contain fine particles of silica – specifically, *silica in the form of a colloidal silica and/or a hollow silica sol, a dispersing water of which is set within a pH range of 2 to 7*. By using said fine particles, coatings made from the present compositions are maintained at a low refractive index.

In contrast, with regard to fine particles, JP 1-275130 teaches the use of various fillers as prior art (SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2). However, since those are to be formed on plastic material by means of thin film forming technologies such as vacuum evaporation, sputtering, and ion beam irradiation, those prior art fine particles differ significantly from the colloidal silica or hollow silica sol recited in Applicants' claims.

JP 1-275130 fails to suggest protective coat-forming coating compositions containing fine particles of *silica in the form of a colloidal silica and/or a hollow silica sol, a dispersing water of which is set within a pH range of 2 to 7*. It goes without saying that JP 1-275130 fails to teach the advantageous effects provided by the use of such materials in Applicants' invention

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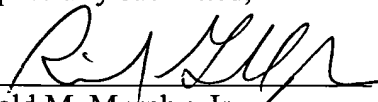
Docket No.: 0171-1084PUS1

The invention presently claimed is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by JP 1-275130. Withdrawal of the rejection of record is in order, and is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard Gallagher (Registration No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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